

ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

2023 AUSA Volunteer Family of the Year-Information Sheet for Chapters

The Award

The AUSA Volunteer Family of the Year Award recognizes an exceptional Army family whose dedicated volunteer service significantly contributes to improving Army well-being and the well-being of the local community.

Eligibility:

- Regular Army
- Army National Guard
- U.S. Army Reserve
- Army Retiree
- Army Civilian
- Surviving Army Family Member

Previous national award, current AUSA chapter officers and their families are not eligible.

Submission Process

- Local AUSA chapters begin to solicit nominations from chapter members or from partners in the military community beginning 2 March 2023.
 - All nominations, whether originating with the chapter or an outside organization, must go through the local chapter to be considered a legitimate nomination.
- Chapter leaders send all nominations received to Region President
 - Deadline for Chapter POC to send to Region President May 2, 2023
- Region Presidents review nominations and approve one for consideration at the national headquarters no later than June 2, 2023.
 - **The deadline for Region Presidents to send to AUSA National is June 2, 2023**
 - All nominations submitted to AUSA National must be approved by the Region President
 - **Only nomination packets approved by a Region President WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
- **All nominations must be submitted at <https://www.ausa.org/national-award-nomination-form>**
- AUSA Family Readiness Directorate will rank the order by region and inform the region of number one pick. Only #1 Region nomination packets will move on and be considered for the 2023 AUSA Family of the Year Award.

Who may submit a nomination packet to the chapters?

All nominations must be submitted to a Region President through a local AUSA chapter. However, chapters may solicit nominations through:

- Unit chaplains
- BN and BDE SFRG's
- ACS Volunteer Coordinators
- Joint Family Support Assistance Program State Offices
- **Garrison Commands**
- **Any other sources you have**

PLEASE REMEMBER, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR VERIFYING THE LEGITIMACY OF THE NOMINATION BEFORE FORWARDING TO YOUR REGION PRESIDENT

DEADLINES:

2 May- Chapter must submit nomination form for Region President review

2 June- Region President must review and approve one nomination for approval by National Awards Committee.

Nomination Packet:

Please use the AUSA 2023 AUSA Volunteer Family of the Year Award Application Form included in this packet.

Please note: nominations that do not follow the appropriate format will be returned for revisions as needed. Your cooperation on this matter is especially important.

Please do not include pictures, award certificates or letters of recommendations in your submission packet.

Selection Criteria

Please use the following criteria when seeking families to nominate:

- At least two members of the nominated family must be currently volunteering for community, installation, or unit programs (not necessarily at the same location) beyond what would be expected because one's position in a unit or place of employment. Please do not include volunteer dates before April 2020.
- The AUSA Family Readiness Directorate believes that the entire family supports the efforts of dedicated volunteers in the family unit. It is not necessary for each family member to provide specific volunteer service but at a minimum two family members must have a proven record of volunteering activities for the family to be nominated.
- Nominated family members must have demonstrated outstanding leadership in planning, organizing or directing a major event or program that has resulted in a tangible benefit to the community or to Army families.
- At least one nominated family member must have a demonstrable pattern of volunteering, leadership, and achievement which has been recognized by other awards which begin at Brigade or installation level.

Judging for AUSA Volunteer Family of the Year Award

All nominations sent by Region Presidents will be reviewed by a panel of judges selected by the Family Readiness staff. The top three nomination packets will be sent to the AUSA National Awards Committee for final selection. The winning family will be notified by General Brown or his designee.

Family Involvement:

The AUSA Family of the Year Award recognizes an Army family that views volunteerism as a family value. Although not every family member is required to volunteer the more the family as a whole contributes, the better.

Items to consider:

- How many family members volunteer?
- Look at individual family members' position(s) of leadership and the responsibilities held in that leadership role.

Impact on Community:

Rate the nomination based on the total impact on the community.

Items to consider:

- Has this family forged new frontiers in the activities they are involved in?
- Does this family demonstrate a passion for the activity or organization?
- Has this family inspired others in such a way that there is increased awareness or involvement by local community members?

Awards and Recognitions:

Honors and awards represent significant achievements over the past three years (April 2020 - April 2023). Use the following as a guide for assigning points to the Awards and recognition Section. This list is not inclusive. Use it as a guide and use your best judgement. Consistency is key.

Samples of Awards and point value:

- **Significant:** HQDA or MACOM level Awards, “of the year” awards
- **Excellent:** Commanding General Awards, “outstanding volunteer”, AUSA Chapter Award
- **Good:** Certificates of appreciation, coins

Essay:

The essays should be clearly written and well organized and should give you a glimpse of the nominated families' passion and drive. An essay that tugs at your heart strings or gives you a sense of “wow” should be considered an excellent essay.

FAQ's

1. How will I know if you received my nomination?

All nomination packets must be submitted to the National HQ by **June 2, 2023**. Your Region President will receive a confirmation email from Thea Green within two working days from receipt of the nomination.

2. Where can I find families to nominate?

Please feel free to spread the word that your chapter is accepting nominations for the 2023 AUSA Volunteer Family of the Year. Email the attached packet to your contacts on installations, National Guard and Reserve units, the state Joint Family Assistance Center, the Army Volunteer Corps (AVC) coordinators office, and unit chaplains. Simultaneously, the AUSA Family Readiness office will promote the award to its contacts and various DoD Family Programs offices.

ALL nominations must be submitted through local AUSA Chapters and sent on to Region Presidents to be considered.

3. Who may I contact at HQ if I need help or information?

All of us in the Family Readiness Directorate are here to help but your primary POC for the AUSA 2023 Family of the Year Award will be Thea Green. She can be reached at tgreen@ausa.org or you can call her at 703-907-2674

Previous Recipients

2022 SFC Timothy Tomasura Family, JBLM, Washington
2021 1SG Justin Dixon Family, Fort Bragg, North Carolina
2020 SSG Casey Raines Family, Fort Drum, New York
2019 SGM Dianne Ellwein Family, Wiesbaden, Germany
2018 SSG Vincent Pastore, Mount Laurel, New Jersey
2017 SFC Eryn Seidl Family, Kaiserslautern, Germany
2016 MAJ Craig Young Family, Wiesbaden Military Community, Germany
2015 SGT Blagoy Pogoncheff Family, Joint Base Lewis McCord, Washington
2014 SFC Charles Hindbaugh Family, El Paso, Texas
2013 1SG Tommy Flores Family, El Paso, Texas
2012 CPT William Mendelsohn Family, Claremont, California
2011 SGT Jeremy Barnhart Family, San Antonio, Texas
2010 MSG Evalani Faniel Family, Fort Lee, Virginia
2009 MAJ Kevin Bolke Family, White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico
2008 LTC Ronald Rallis Family, Fullerton, California
2007 LTC John R. Chavez Family, Fort Bliss, Texas
2006 CSM Darrel Calton Family, Frederick, Maryland
2005 SGT Jon Kerr Family, Tobyhanna Army Depot, Pennsylvania
2004 CSM Brian Wiles Family, Fort Lewis, Washington
2003 SSG Michael McClaran Family, Wahiawa, Hawaii
2002 SFC Lynn J. Dedeaux Family, Fort Knox, Kentucky

Submit Nomination Here: <https://www.ausa.org/national-award-nomination-form>